

grading the wound or patient against defined scales for one or more second wound factors, which are wound assessment factors or wound risk assessment factors; and

operating a mechanical visual decision tree device to show a decision or visual decision tree corresponding to the wound classification or to a scale for a wound assessment factor, wherein the visual decision tree device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded wound factors.

8. (Amended) A method of identifying a wound care protocol for a given wound or wound prevention protocol appropriate for a given patient comprising:

classifying the wound or patient against a defined scale for a first wound factor, which is a defined wound assessment factor or defined wound risk assessment factor to obtain a wound classification;

grading the wound or patient against defined scales for one or more second wound factors, which are wound assessment factors or wound risk assessment factors;

operating a mechanical visual decision tree device to show a decision or visual decision tree corresponding to the wound classification or to a scale for a wound assessment factor, wherein at least one visual decision tree dictates two or more distinct decisions based on the grade of one or more second wound factors, and wherein the visual decision tree device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded wound factors; and

marking a pre-defined display of treatment protocols to identify the components of a treatment protocol identified by the method.

10. (Amended) A visual decision tree device for identifying a wound care protocol for a given wound or wound prevention protocol appropriate for a given patient comprising;

a mechanical device for identifying and displaying one of at least two decisions or visual decision trees based on one or more inputted wound factors according to a defined scale,

wherein the visual decision tree device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded wound factors.

Please add new claims 16 and 17 as follows:

16. (New) A method of identifying a wound prevention protocol appropriate for a given patient comprising:

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classifying the patient against a defined scale for a first wound risk assessment factor to obtain a wound classification;

grading the patient against defined scales for one or more second wound risk assessment factors; and

operating a mechanical visual decision tree device to show a decision or visual decision tree corresponding to a scale for a wound risk assessment factor, wherein the visual decision tree device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded wound risk assessment factors.

17. (New) A visual decision tree device for identifying a wound prevention protocol appropriate for a given patient comprising:

a mechanical device for identifying and displaying one of at least two decisions or visual decision trees based on one or more inputted wound risk assessment factors according to a defined scale,

wherein the visual decision tree device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded wound risk assessment factors.

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action mailed in this application on December 18, 2002. By this amendment, claims 2 and 9 have been canceled, claims 1, 8 and 10 have been amended, and new claims 16 and 17 have been added. No new matter has been added by this amendment, and an equal number of claims have been canceled as have been added. Accordingly, when this amendment is entered, claims 1, 3-8, 10 and 13-17 will be pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and further in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,299,121 ("Brill et al.") in view of "Solutions™ Wound Care Algorithm Series" ("Solutions™"). Again, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

According to the rejection, Brill et al. teach "a method for identifying a symptom care protocol for a given symptom", "(C)lassifying the symptom against a defined scale for a first symptom factor to obtain a symptom classification", "grading the symptom factors against defined scale" and "a visual decision device corresponding to the symptom classification wherein the visual decision device identifies at least one component of a treatment protocol for the graded symptom factors".